

May 15, 1954

Dr. Wacław Szybalski
Institute of Microbiology
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, N.J.

Dear Szybalski:

Tom Nelson has forwarded your indirect request for an indirectly selected S^F mutant of *E. coli* K-12. The only S^F mutants that we have obtained in this way are those recorded in the paper, from auxotroph derivatives W-1 (T, L, Th) and 58-278 (B, Pa), and none from the autotrophic K-12. I imagine the latter would be more convenient, but you should have no difficulty accomplishing this anew.

I might add that these mutants are resistant to very high levels of streptomycin, and that I did find no reduction in viable count when they were exposed to ca. 200 ug/ml for the first time. I would imagine therefore that this system would be far less appropriate for your problem than some multi-step arrangement such as, e.g., staph./penicillin. This undertaking would have the additional advantage of generalizing the conclusions from the indirect selection experiment to a multi-step (polygenic) system, which we did not do.

Let me know if the W-1 S^F would be particularly useful, and I will see that you get it. In any event, I should see you at the Institute dedication symposium about 3 weeks hence.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg